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INFORMATION SECTION

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- U. S. CHURCHER

COUNTRY

Italy

DATE DISTR. 17 Dec 1948

SUBJECT

Visit of a Russian Commercial Mission

at Teranto, Italy

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SOURCE

- 1. On the evening of 5 November 1948, the following Russian citizens errived at Teranto, Italy:
  - a. Costantine Vassiliev: father's name Vasili; mother's name, Antonina (family name, unknown); born at Moscow, 5 June 1912; bearer of identity card no. 1241, dated 27 October 1947, issued by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome; and
  - b. Marko Kompov: father's name, unknown; mother's name, Natalia (family name, unknown); born at Moscow, 20 January 1917; bearer of passport no. 32519, dated, 12 May 1948, issued at Moscow.
- 2. On the marning of 6 November 1948, they visited the Tosi shippard and negothated for the purchase of a floating dock. On 7 November 1948, at 6:32 a.m., they left for Rome. It is reliably reported that they are also to go to La Specia.
- 3. During their brief stay at Taranto, they had contacts with the well known persons, Hons. Giuseppe La Torre and Paolo Moschelli, as well with a certain Perri (fnu), Communist worker in the Tosi shippard, married to the dussian catizen, Lina Titar.
- 4. On the following days, 9, 11, 12, and 13 November 1948, meetings took place at the faranto Communist Federation. At the first meeting, on 9 November 1948, three party efficers of the Navy, in uniform, and two non-commissioned officers, in civilian clothes, took part. At the meeting of 12 November 1948, at which Moschelli took part, it allegedly was decided to constitute five schedage squads.

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Comment: It is believed that the two sequences of events might have been related. An investigation of the doors report, while confirming the exactness of facts reported, did not demonstrate any relationship between them.

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It is that the groups constituted probably were designed to prevent a possible sabotaging of the vesseld to be consigned by Italy to Russia under the Treaty, and further, that the contact made by the above named Russians with Peranto Partito Commista Italiano (PCI) leaders was designed to exploit the local PCI intelligence network, for the purpose of obtaining information as to the state of atalian naval units.)

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